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Agenda item 8

OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Czeslaw WIECKOWSKI (Poland)

Addendum

C. Implementation in areas requiring urgent action

2. Sectors and issues

1. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered paragraphs 31 to 34 and 34 bis of section C.2 of the proposed outcome of the special session (A/S-19/14-E/1997/60, section I.B) at its ___th meeting on ___ June 1997.

2. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following amendments and recommended those paragraphs to the special session for adoption.

(a) In paragraph 31, the second sentence was replaced by:

"Forests are one of the major reservoirs of biological diversity, and are carbon sinks and reservoirs and are a significant source of renewable energy, particularly in least developed countries. Forests are an integral part of sustainable development and are essential to many indigenous people and other forest-dependent people embodying traditional lifestyles, forest owners and local communities, many of whom possess important traditional forest-related knowledge."

(b) Subparagraph 33 (d) was revised to read:

"Further clarification of all issues arising from the programme elements of the IPF process;"

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(c) Paragraph 34 was revised to read:

"To help achieve this, it is decided to continue the intergovernmental policy dialogue on forests through the establishment of an ad hoc, open-ended Intergovernmental Forum on Forests under the aegis of the CSD to work in an open, transparent and participatory manner, with a focused and time-limited mandate, charged with, inter alia:

(a) Promoting and facilitating the implementation of the Panel's proposals for action;

(b) Reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest; and

(c) Considering matters left pending by the programme elements of the IPF, in particular trade and environment in relation to forest products and services, transfer of technology and the need for financial resources.

The Forum should also identify the possible elements of and work towards consensus for international arrangements and mechanisms, for example a legally binding instrument. The Forum will report on its work to the CSD in 1999.

Based on that report and depending on the decision by the eighth session of the CSD, the Forum will engage in further action on establishing an intergovernmental negotiation process on new arrangements and mechanisms or a legally binding instrument on all types of forests."

(d) A new paragraph 34 bis was inserted following paragraph 34, as follows:

"34 bis. The Forum should convene as soon as possible to further elaborate its terms of reference and decide on organizational matters. It should be serviced by a small secretariat within the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development supported by voluntary extrabudgetary contributions from governments and international organizations."